

REMARKS

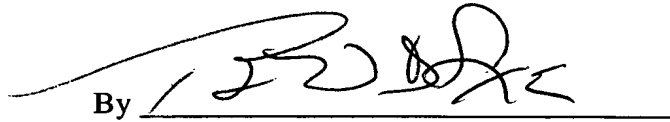
Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments to the claims be entered in order to avoid this application incurring a surcharge for the presence of one or more multiple dependent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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MARKED UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES

What Is Claimed Is:

5. A system according to [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1 wherein the viral vector is a retroviral vector.
8. A system according to [any one of claims 5 to 7] claim 5 wherein the polypeptide required for the assembly of viral particles is selected from gag, pol and env proteins.
11. A system according to claim 9 [or 10] wherein the lentivirus is HIV.
12. A system according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the third nucleotide sequence is resistant to cleavage directed by the gene product as a result of one or more conservative alterations in the nucleotide sequence which remove cleavage sites recognised by the at least one gene product and/or binding sites for the at least one gene product.
13. A system according to [any one of claims 1 to 11] claim 1 wherein the third nucleotide sequence is adapted to be resistant to cleavage by the at least one gene product.
14. A system according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 wherein the third nucleotide sequence is codon optimised for expression in producer cells.
16. A system according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1 comprising a plurality of first nucleotide sequences and third nucleotide sequences as defined therein.
17. A viral particle comprising a viral vector genome as defined in [any one of claims 3 to 16] claim 3 and one or more third nucleotide sequences as defined in [any of claims 3 to 16] claim 3.
18. A viral particle produced using a viral vector production system according to [any one of claims 3 to 16] claim 3.

19. A method for producing a viral particle which method comprises introducing into a host cell (i) a viral genome as defined in [any one of claims 3 to 16] claim 3 (ii) one or more third nucleotide sequences as defined in [any of claims 3 to 16] claim 3 and (iii) nucleotide sequences encoding the other essential viral packaging components not encoded by the one or more third nucleotide sequences.

21. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a viral particle according to [claims 17, 18 or 20] claim 17, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

Please add the following new claim:

--24. (New) A method of treating a viral infection, comprising administering to a subject infected with a virus an effective amount of a viral system according to claim 1.--

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